

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /058 W

-----012250 093046 /67

R 011518Z MAR 77

FM AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7339

AMEMBASSY BONN

INFO AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTGART

USMISSION BERLIN

USCINCEUR

USAREUR

USAFE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, GW

SUBJ: CDU/FDP COALITION GOVERNMENT TAKES OVER IN THE SAARLAND

REF: FRANKFURT 1472

1. FOLLOWING LAST MINUTE SNAGS AND A WEEKEND OF
HECTIC POLITICS IN SAARBRUECKEN, FRANZ-JOSEF ROEDER
(CDU) ON MARCH 1 PRESENTED THE NEW CDU/FDP COALITION
GOVERNMENT TO THE SAARLAND LANDTAG WHICH PROMPTLY
APPROVED IT IN A STRAIGHT PARTY LINE VOTE.

2. LAST MINUTE DIFFICULTIES AROSE WHEN THE FDP
LAND CENTRAL COMMITTEE ON FEBRUARY 26 REJECTED THAT
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PORTION OF THE AGREEMENT WHICH PROVIDED FOR SPLITTING
THE MINISTRY OF LABOR, HEALTH AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS IN
ORDER TO RETAIN THE CDU'S POPULAR YOUNG RITA
WASCHBUESCH IN THE CABINET WHILE ALSO MAKING ROOM
FOR THE FDP'S ROSEMARIE SCHEURLIN. THIS UNEXPECTEDLY
STRONG OPPOSITION FORCED THE CDU TO DROP WASCHBUESCH
FROM THE GOVERNMENT, THUS AVOIDING AN INCREASE IN

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF CABINET POSTS. CONCURRENTLY,
THE CDU ALSO DROPPED KONRAD SCHOEN WHO HAD BEEN UNDER
SOME CRITICISM AS MINISTER OF FINANCE.
HOWEVER, SCHOEN (WHO BECOMES SAARLAND RESIDENT
REPRESENTATIVE IN BONN) HAS BEEN REPLACED
BY FERDI BEHLES, ANOTHER CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT IN THE
FINANCE MINISTRY. THE CONSOLATION PRIZE FOR
MRS. WASCHBUESCH IS HER DESIGNATION AS VICE PRESIDENT
OF THE LANDTAG, A GESTURE DEEMED INADEQUATE BY THE CDU
WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION WHOSE BOARD HAS RESIGNED IN PROTEST
AGAINST THE SACRIFICE OF THE EXTREMELY WELL LIKED
MRS. WASCHBUESCH ON THE ALTER OF A CDU/FDP COLATION
AND IN THE INTEREST OF LONG-RANGE CDU STRATEGY.

3. COMMENT: THE UNEXPECTEDLY STRONG OPPOSITION BY
A MAJORITY OF THE FDP LAND CENTRAL COMMITTEE
TO THE COALITION AGREEMENT WORKED OUT BY KLUMPP
REPRESENTS A TEMPORARY SETBACK TO THE LATTER'S
PRESTIGE FROM WHICH HE IS EXPECTED TO RECOVER.
DROPPING WASCHBUESCH IS A BITTER PILL FOR ROEDER AND
DOES NOT SIT WELL WITH THE CDU RANK AND FILE. WE
SUSPECT, HOWEVER, THAT SOMETHING MORE SUITABLE WILL
EVENTUALLY BE FOUND FOR HER AND THAT TIME WILL
HEAL INTERNAL CDU WOUNDS ON THIS SCORE. LEHMANN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 01-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
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Litigation History:
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Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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